

Marshfield and Plainfield Energy and Climate Change committee  
Monthly meeting minutes, January 7th, 2019, 7:00pm  
Upstairs library area

Committee members in attendance: Nick Seifert, Becky Wigg, Anne Miller,

Members of the public in attendance: Michael Billingsly, Ed Hutchinson

- Select a facilitator
  - Becky volunteered
- Public comment
  - None.
- Announcements
  - None.
- Agenda modification
  - Request from Anne about town meeting discussion
- Approval of previous minutes
  - Motioned and approved.
- Business
  - Town report discussion.
    - Nick to email Bobbi and ask if we can have extra time to submit this.
    - Nick will draft this, and send to the committee. Topics to cover include:
      - Act 174 work
      - Harvest festival
      - Climate change books and movies
      - Other activities (Twinfield weatherization, charging station grant, weatherization - include contact info)
  - Act 174 update
    - Copies with edits should be returned to Nick. Digital or hard copies are fine.
    - Nick to incorporate changes from Becky and Anne (and generally update formatting of the document).
    - Nick to then send a copy of this to Bonnie to get comments.
    - Nick then to meet with the Planning Commission to discuss this. Need to figure out what date, and let Anne know so she can attend.
  - Update on planned activities (Jimmy Kennedy Breakfast; Plainfield community supper).
    - The idea here is to have a table, with weatherization sign ups, general climate information, etc.
    - Anne pointed out that any table pulled together could be used for all events.
      - Weatherization sign ups? Ed believes that the Plainfield program sign-up deadline was 12/15, so no luck there unless there is a new round.
    - Anne still has some button-up DVDs and booklets which could be given out.
    - Rich, or Anne, or someone may still have some LED bulbs.
    - Becky asked if Efficiency VT may have things to hand out?
    - Anne said she would talk to Capstone about getting brochures to hand out.
    - Copy/copies of Act 174 plan.
    - Anne might try to do a display about what climate change stuff the Jaquith has.
  - Discussion about the Marshfield Dam.
    - Update from dam visit, selectboard visit.
    - Michael presented his updates, two parts: the site visit, and case updates.
      - Site visit:
        - Wes was at the site visit. He thought that GMP was putting on a bit of a show, despite their equipment being very old.
        - Anne was at the site visit as well. She was expecting a bit more formal presentation at each location they visited, but this did not happen. She found if you wanted information you had to find the right person and ask the right question. She didn't learn a whole lot, but did get to see it.
        - Michael mentioned that they were recommended to use the discovery process of the case to ask and answer questions, and not to ask them during the site visit.
        - Michael mentioned that during the site visit the reservoir was as high as he's ever seen it due to rain and snowfall. The height observed, Michael thought that the level was as high as it was during the 2011 Irene event.
        - Wes commented that the emergency spillway looked horrible. Michael agreed, and also commented that there was flow over the emergency spillway which was contributing to erosion.
        - Michael had some interesting discussions with people during car rides regarding the condition of the service spillway, as well as the operation of the Peacham Pond release mechanism.

- PUC case updates:
  - Michael used the site visit, and discovery, to interrogate GMP for further understanding about the condition of the service spillway, and other components of the dam.
  - For questions submitted, the public service department asked mostly financial questions; the agency of natural resources asked mostly about the reservoir drawdown levels; Plainfield and Marshfield asked mostly questions about safety.
  - GMP has responded to all questions, and that is something like 400 pages of responses.
  - Michael believes that his complaint has initiated a chain reaction which is leading to inevitable resolution of safety issues.
  - Michael has received a lot of information that has been filed in this case, but has not yet had time to fully review it.
  - Nick asked about a worst case situation where GMP were to try and get out of responsibility. This occurred in the case of the waterbury dam, where GMP did not implement 45million dollars in required repairs. The ANR did implement this work, and then shut down the generators.
  - Michael believes that the Molly's Falls dam is the most hazardous dam in the state that uses stop logs for the emergency spillway. He doesn't think that GMP will back away from this dam, but that is a gut feeling, not based on any facts.
- Nick and Becky gave a brief update on our visit to the Selectboard.
- Climate change discussion follow up meetings (if needed).
  - Twinfield solar and weatherization update, charging station grant (if needed).
  - Rich not present, so no update given on climate change, Twinfield, etc.
- Discussion about charging station grant application (if needed)
  - General comments about this: likely the work would be similar to the application from November.
  - Becky was going to take a bit of effort on this to review it.
- Update on book/video purchases (if needed)
  - No update.
- Plainfield update
  - Ed gave a brief update. There was a weatherization meeting in December which was very successful.
  - Bob sent through some information about a grant application for Model Communities.
    - Consensus was that we'd be glad to have Marshfield's name on the application, but no one has a lot of time to help Bob out with this.
- Discussion about weatherization (if needed)
  - Discussion about multi-unit home weatherization efforts.
    - Anne got a list of rental property owners in Marshfield with phone numbers and addresses. She plans to share this list with Rich.
  - Possible purchase of IR camera.
- Draft agenda for next meeting
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    - Act 174 update
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    - Discussion about the Marshfield Dam.
    - Climate change discussion follow up meetings (if needed).
      - Twinfield solar and weatherization update, charging station grant (if needed).
    - Discussion about Marshfield charging station grant application (if needed)
    - Update on book/video purchases (if needed)
    - Plainfield update
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